Name: _____ Date: _____

Why Some Birds Fly South

Circle group

When days get cold, many birds leave. They fly to a warm place. This long trip is called migration.

Why do the birds go? It is not just the cold. In winter, bugs hide. Seeds are hard to find. A lake may freeze. A bird that eats bugs or fish would have little food.

So the birds fly south, where it is warm. They find food all winter.

Many birds go in a group. Some fly in a V. Some fly at night and rest by day. The sun and the stars help them find the way.

In spring, the days get warm again. The birds fly back north. They build nests and raise chicks.

Questions

1. What is migration?

_____

_____

2. Why is food hard to find for birds in winter?

_____

_____

3. What helps birds find their way?

_____

_____

4. What do the birds do in spring?

_____

_____

5. Why would a fish-eating bird leave a frozen lake?

_____

_____

Words to know

migration: a long trip that animals make each year
freeze: to turn into ice because it is very cold
chicks: baby birds

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Why Some Birds Fly South

Triangle group

When the days get cold, many birds leave. They fly to a warmer place. This long trip is called migration.

Why do the birds go? The cold is not the only reason. In winter, bugs hide and seeds are hard to find. Plants do not grow, and a lake may freeze. A bird that eats bugs or fish would have little to eat.

So the birds fly south, where it is warmer. There they can find food all winter.

Many birds travel in a group. Some fly in a V shape. Some fly at night and rest in the day. They use the sun and the stars to help them find their way.

When spring comes, the days grow warm again. The birds fly back north. They build nests and raise their chicks.

Questions

1. What is migration?

_____

_____

2. Why is food hard to find for birds in winter?

_____

_____

3. What helps birds find their way?

_____

_____

4. What do the birds do when spring comes?

_____

_____

5. Why would a bird that eats fish leave a lake that freezes?

_____

_____

Words to know

migration: a long trip that animals make each year
freeze: to turn into ice because it is very cold
chicks: baby birds
warmer: less cold
travel: to go from one place to another

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

Why Some Birds Fly South

Square group

As the days turn cold, many kinds of birds leave their homes and travel to a warmer place. This long yearly journey is known as migration.

Why do these birds go? The cold is not the only reason. During winter, bugs hide, seeds become difficult to find, and a lake may freeze solid. A bird that depends on bugs or fish would have very little to eat.

For that reason, the birds head south, where the weather is milder and they can find food throughout the winter.

Many birds travel together in a group, and some fly in a V shape. Others fly at night and rest during the day. They use the sun and the stars to help them find their way across great distances.

When spring arrives and the days grow warm again, the birds return north. There they build nests and raise their chicks.

Questions

1. What is the long yearly journey of birds called?

_____

_____

2. Why is food difficult for birds to find during winter?

_____

_____

3. What do birds use to help them find their way?

_____

_____

4. What do the birds do after they return north in spring?

_____

_____

5. Why would a bird that eats fish leave a lake that freezes solid?

_____

Words to know

migration: a long trip that animals make each year
freeze: to turn into ice because it is very cold
chicks: baby birds
warmer: less cold
travel: to go from one place to another

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: Why Some Birds Fly South

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: Why Some Birds Fly South

Easier · 115 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade -0.5

1. A long trip that birds take to a warm place.
2. Bugs hide, seeds are hard to find, and a lake may freeze.
3. The sun and the stars.
4. They fly back north, build nests, and raise chicks.
5. It could not catch fish under the ice, so it would go where there is food.

Triangle: Why Some Birds Fly South

This passage · 133 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 0.4

1. A long trip that birds take to a warmer place.
2. Bugs hide, seeds are hard to find, and a lake may freeze.
3. The sun and the stars.
4. They fly back north, build nests, and raise their chicks.
5. It could not catch fish through the ice, so it would go to a place with food.

Square: Why Some Birds Fly South

Harder · 147 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.8

1. Migration.
2. Bugs hide, seeds become hard to find, and a lake may freeze solid.
3. The sun and the stars.
4. They build nests and raise their chicks.
5. It could not reach the fish through the ice, so it would travel to a place with food.